

**February 13, 2009**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **SCREENING COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO REVIEW CANDIDATES FOR JUDICIAL VACANCY IN TWELFTH CIRCUIT**

Illinois Supreme Court Justice Thomas L. Kilbride has appointed a special screening committee to review the credentials of candidates who applied to fill a judicial vacancy in the 5<sup>th</sup> Subcircuit of the Twelfth Judicial Circuit.

Notice of the vacancy and the appointment process was posted at various courthouses in the Twelfth Circuit, which encompasses Will County. The vacancy was created by the retirement of Judge Rodney W. Lechwar and is temporarily being filled by Judge William G. McMenamin, who left retirement to fill the position in the interim.

Justice Kilbride named 21 persons to the special screening committee. They are Edward L. Breen, retired president, Will-Grundy Central Trades and Labor Council, who serves as a court bailiff; Glenn C. Fredrickson, retired major, Area I Commander, Illinois State Police, Joliet; Diane Habiger, property manager, Lincolnshire Properties, Inc., Joliet; Charles E. Hanus, president, Will-Grundy Central Trades and Labor Council, AFL-CIO; Kathleen Kinsella, president, Elucidating Business Solutions; Joseph Kirkeeng, executive vice president, Suburban Bank & Trust, New Lenox.

The community representatives also include: Bishop J. E. Moore, pastor, Christ Temple Church of the Apostolic Faith, Joliet; Ann O'Neill, executive vice president, Prairie Trail Credit Union, Joliet; Ana Padron, Regional Office of Education, Will County; J.D. Ross, executive director, Will-Grundy Medical Clinic, Joliet; Russ Slinkard, president and CEO, Joliet Region Chamber of Commerce; Eveleyna U. Washington, materials specialist, president, CBTU, Joliet and trustee, IAMAW, Local 851; and Ron Zier, president, Will-Grundy Counties Building Trades Council.

Members of the legal profession on the screening committee are Retired Justice Tobias G. Barry of the Third District Appellate Court; Chief Judge Gerald R. Kinney of the Twelfth Judicial Circuit; Timothy Bertschy, attorney, former president of the Illinois State Bar Association and a partner at Heyl, Royster, Volker & Allen, Peoria; Joseph A. Dailing, attorney, executive director, Illinois Coalition for Equal Justice, Rockford; Chrystel L. Gavlin, an attorney with her own law firm, Chrystel L. Gavlin, P.C., in Joliet, and president, Black Bar Association of Will County; George F. Mahoney III, attorney and partner in the firm of Mahoney, Silverman & Cross; Katherine L. Maloney, attorney, president of the Will County Women's Bar Association and a partner in the firm of Rathbun,

## **MORE**

### **Screening Committee Appointed Add One**

Cservenyak and Kozal; and John S. Rossi, attorney, first vice president of the Will County Bar Association and a partner in the firm of McNamara, Phelan, McSteen.

Justice Kilbride uses an extensive application, evaluation and interview process to make recommendations to the Supreme Court for judicial vacancies in the Third Judicial District. Justice Barry and Mr. Bertschy, co-chairs of the committee, have served on previous screening committees appointed by Justice Kilbride, and provide procedural continuity to the screening process, which is dominated by input from the Will County community.

The appointment process used by Justice Kilbride also consists of background checks by police authorities and with the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission; and a written survey of registered attorneys in Will County, conducted by the Illinois State Bar Association.

Those wishing to send written comments about the candidates during the selection process may address them to: Sarah Kink-Tucker, Twelfth Judicial Circuit Appointment Comments, Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts, 3101 Old Jacksonville Rd., Springfield, IL 62704. Comments must arrive by noon on **Monday, March 16**. Comments must include contact information such as name and address, and should be brief, preferably no more than 250 words.

Among qualities an applicant must possess are a demonstrated reputation for integrity and good character; a demonstrated commitment to equal justice under the law; outstanding legal ability and competence; and the appropriate demeanor and character demonstrating a judicial temperament required by the position of Circuit Court judge.

Those who submitted applications for the position are Brian E. Barrett; Judith A. DeVriendt; Kenneth A. Grey; David A. Izzo, Russell H. Loverude; Daniel F. O'Connell; Raymond E. Rossi; Stephanie L. Speakman; Eric R. Swanson; and Donald Larry Wennlund.

The person appointed to fill the vacancy will serve until the first Monday in December 2010, or until other order by the Illinois Supreme Court.

The Third Judicial District is composed of 21 counties across the north central part of the state, stretching from Will, Kankakee and Iroquois counties in the east to Whiteside, Rock Island, Peoria, Mercer, Henderson and Hancock counties in the west.

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**(FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT: Joseph Tybor, press secretary to the Illinois Supreme Court, at 312.793.2323)**